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Finlay Carson MSP
Convenor
Rural Affairs, Islands and Natural Environment
Committee
The Scottish Parliament
Edinburgh
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2 December 2022

Dear Finlay,

Thank you for your correspondence of 10 November requesting further information relating to my statement to Parliament of 8 November on future agricultural support and food security. Please accept my apologies for the delay in response.

Specifically, you asked about the intention of the the Scottish Government to bring forward legislation to amend the Agriculture (Retained EU Law and Data) (Scotland) Act 2020.

It is important to first note the context and purpose of this intent. The transition to the intended new model of rural support will take place from 2025 through to beyond 2027. Throughout this phased change, I have committed to co-developing future measures with our farmers and crofters.

This means as we roll-out new co-developed systems and approaches empowered through our future Agriculture Bill, we will still make use of current systems empowered through the 2020 Act.

As I outlined on 8 November, this will require us to update the current CAP rules in secondary legislation made under the powers in Sections 2 to 4 of the 2020 Act. It follows that Section 5 of the 2020 Act will need to be repealed, in order to ensure that the current rules can still be updated as necessary after May 2026. This will help ensure on-going smooth transition.

Yours sincerely,

MAIRI GOUGEON

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